

## **BREAKING NEWS!!! VVTA BUS SERVICE TO REPLACE NTC EXPRESS**

Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) has announced that it will begin public bus service from Victor Valley and Barstow to Fort Irwin.

Beginning Monday, May 14, 2012 VVTA bus service will begin with adjusted route alignments and schedules to be announced in the next few weeks. The purpose of the demonstration project is to identify if there is enough ridership on this new service for VVTA to make the change permanent. If there is enough ridership there is the possibility of expanded services in the future. These may include access to bus service off the base into Barstow, the Victorville area, and down into San Bernardino to Loma Linda and Arrowhead Medical Centers with connections to Omnitrans.

Fares will be to \$200.00 per month from Victor Valley and \$150.00 from the Barstow area and will provide for unlimited rides on all VVTA bus service (\$10.00 each way Victor Valley, \$8.00 each way Barstow).

To assist VVTA in determining NTC's requirements for both bus service and vanpool matching, it is important for everyone to fill out the survey at the link below. Fill out this survey no matter how you currently commute. Completion instructions are provided at the website and can be submitted via the website.

\*\*\*If you are a DOD Employee (Active Duty, Civilian or NAF), you are eligible to enroll in the Mass Transportation Benefit Program (MTBP) and receive up to \$125/month to pay for qualified transportation costs. All costs that exceed the maximum benefit are the employee's responsibility. If you wish to enroll in the MTBP, please use the link below to access the application and return it to Bldg 988, Room 110B by NLT 20 APRIL (or FAX: 760-380-3654) to start receiving benefits by 15 May. EVEN IF YOU WERE ALREADY USING THE NTC EXPRESS, YOU MUST ENROLL IN THE MTBP IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE BENEFIT FOR THE VVTA BUS.

\*\*\*If you are not a DOD Employee, you can still use the VVTA Bus Service, however all fare costs will be your individual responsibility. In addition, please encourage your employer to enroll in the Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit program whereby up to \$125.00 per month is excluded from a bus commuting employee's gross income for income tax purposes and from an employee's wages for payroll tax purposes.

Additional information will be forthcoming as it is made available.

Please disseminate this information to others who may not have access to email.

<http://www.irwin.army.mil/ArmyCivilians/Pages/MassTransportation.aspx>

Please call 760-380-3337 or 760-380-4614 for questions regarding MTBP enrollment procedures.